

Applicant: Nishiyama et al.
Application No.: 10/725,791

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application contains claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 directed to the elected invention. Claims 1, 4 and 7 have been amended. Claims 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9, directed to the elected invention, have been cancelled without prejudice to expedite the prosecution of the present application. Withdrawn claims 10-25 have been cancelled.

Making reference to the Office Action Summary, it is noted that this action is a final action and that the Examiner has set a three-month response date. It is submitted that this amendment has been timely filed.

Applicant thanks Examiner Shih for the courtesy of granting a telephone interview conducted March 26, 2008, and for the helpful comments put forth during the interview to expedite prosecution of this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Making reference to the Detailed Action:

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable by Khosla et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,202,061) (hereinafter, "Khosla et al."). Claims 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 having been cancelled without prejudice to Applicant in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, this rejection is respectfully traversed as regards claims 1, 2, 4 and 7.

Although Khosla et al. admittedly discloses method and apparatus for simultaneously displaying at least two images side-by-side from a group of larger images, there is neither teaching nor remote suggestion of reducing processing, enlarging processing and moving processing on two or more images displayed in the comparison section. More specifically, and making reference to claim 1, as amended, claim 1 recites a reduced image display section to display reduced images (see the thumbnail area of Fig. 11 and paragraph [0125] in support of these amendments); a selection section configured to section two or more images from among the reduced images displayed in the reduced image display section (see mouse 12 and paragraph [0142] support of this amendment); a comparison section configured to display and compare the two or more images selected by the selection section (note the comparison area 51 and paragraph [0142] which support this amendment); and an image processing section configured to process at least one image processing of reduced processing, enlarging processing, and moving processing on the two or more images displayed in the comparison section (see CPU 11 and paragraph [0144] which support this amendment). Please note that all of the references to paragraphs refer to the paragraph numberings in Applicant's Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0175764 A1, Published September 9, 2004.

Khosla et al. is limited to presenting images side-by-side for comparison as noted, for example, in Fig. 12A, as well as Figs. 12B-12F, and lacks the ability of simultaneously performing one of reducing processing, enlarging processing and

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moving processing of two or more images displayed in the comparison section. This is set forth in claim 1, as amended. For these reasons, it is submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Khosla et al. Claims 2 and 4 depend from claim 1 and carry all of its limitations and hence are deemed to patentably distinguish over Khosla et al. for the same reasons set forth above regarding claim 1.

Claim 7, as amended, recites a fourth step of displaying reduced images of images that belong to any one or more of the categories classified by the third step; a fifth step of selecting two or more images from among the reduced images displayed in the fourth step; a sixth step of displaying the two or more images selected in the fifth step in a comparison section; a seventh step of performing at least one image processing of reducing processing, enlarging processing and moving processing on two or more of the images displayed in the sixth step; and an eighth step of selecting and designating an image from among the images subjected to the image processing in the seventh step. As is set forth above regarding claim 1, Khosla et al. fails to teach any simultaneously processing of two or more images for one of reducing processing, enlarging processing and moving processing. It is thus submitted that claim 7 patentably distinguishes over Khosla et al.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 patentably distinguish over Khosla et al. and reconsideration of allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited. It is noted that Examiner Shih indicated during the telephone

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interview that distinctions as set forth in the amendments of claims 1 and 7 are not taught by Khosla et al.

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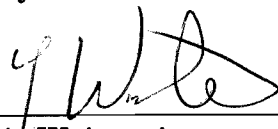
Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1, 2, 4 and 7, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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